(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) and (b) As a consequence of increase in the issue price of wheat from Rs. 172|- per quintal to Rs. 190|- per quintal for public distribution system as well as roller flour mills, with effect from 1-2-1986, the State Governments|Union Territories have been advised by the Central Government to work out and notify revised exmill and retail prices of the wheat products produced by the roller flour mills, namely maida, suji, resultant atta, and bran. The revised prices are to be fixed by the State Governments|Union Territories on the basis of the existing milling margins allowed to the mills and are only to neutralise the effect of increase in the cost of wheat.

Backlog of unemepolyed persons

*39. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:

SHRI KALPNATH RAI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what was the backlog of unemployed persons towards the end of the Sixth Plan period; and

(b) the employment potential expected to be generated during the Seventh Plan period and whether the problem of unemployment is expected to be solved by the end of the Seventh Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The backlog of unemployment at the end of the Sixth Plan period has been estimated at 9.2 million for the age-group 5-plus. The net addition to the labour force in this age-group during the Seventh Plan period would be 39.38 million. It is expected that additional employment of the order of 40.36 million standard person years would be generated during the Seventh Plan. It is expected that the backlog of unemployment at the end of the Plan would be less than that at the beginning of the Plan.

Payment to sugarcane growers by sugar mills

*40. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount at present outstanding for payment to the sugarcane growers by the sugar mills, millwise, in each State;

(b) for how long the amount has been outstanding and what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what fresh steps have been taken by the Central Government to ensure prompt payment for sugarcane supplies made to the mills by the cultivators?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) and (b) Annexure giving the sugarcane price State-wise, in respect of individual mills for 1985-86, 1984-85, 1983-84 and earlier seasons as on 31st December 1985 is attached. [*See* Appendix CXXXVII, Annexure No. 2] As would be seen therefrom, the bulk of the dues relate to the current season. The dues are high at the peak of the crushing season as the season tapers off. For the last seasons out of the total cane price of Rs. 1270 crores, only about Rs. 3.6 crores remain to be cleared as on 31-12-85, percentage-wise, the arrears for the last season are only 0.28 percent. These arrears are spread over a very large number of factories. The small amounts remained unpaid gen-

erally due to the growers not coming forward to collect the amounts or due to certain legal difficulties etc. Similar is the position in respect of claims earlier than 1984-85 seasons.

(c) Ensuring payment of cane price arrears is the direct responsibility of the State Governments who have the necessary field organizations and powers to enforce such payments. The Central Government monitors the position and requests the State Governments from time to time for expenditious clearance of the cane price arrears. The State Governments have very recently been addressed again to give special attention to the payment of cane price. The Central Government have in the last few years taken steps to improve the liquidity position of the industry to enable them to make quicker payments. During the current season, the statutory minimum price of sugarcane has been increased by Rs. 2.50 per quintal. Besides, the ratio of levy: levy free sugar has been changed from 65:35 to 55:45. These steps will have the effect of improving the liquidity of the sugar industry. The cane price dues have so far been much lower than the dues at the corresponding periods during the last 2-3 years.

Income-tax assessment of cetrain companies of Calcutta

101. SHRI GULAM MOHI-UD-DIN SHAWL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 816 given in Rajya Sabha on the 6th March, 1984 and furnish the uptodate information regarding income-tax assessments and returns filed by M|s. Eastern Silk Industries Ltd. and M/s. Gemini Overseas Ltd., of 16, R. N. Mukherjee Road, Calcutta, their Directors, partners and by their associate concerns and of the proceedings regarding completed assessments, amounts assessed to income-tax, appeals filed, results of appeals, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as it is received.

Rehabilitation of workers of sick and closed units

102. SHRI SHANTIMOY GHOSH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any schemes to rehabilitate workers of sick and closed industrial units either by reopening such units or by some other means;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, in what manner the interests of such workers are proposed to be protected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) Government have laid down policy guidelines to combat industrial sickness in the country according to which the Banks and Financial Institutions are required to monitor sickness and take corrective action to revive sick units. The Central and State Governments also provide various concessions and reliefs as part of rehabilitation packages formulated by Banks and Financial Institutions to nurse sick industrial units back to health.

Regional consultative committee for banks of the Eastern Region

103. SHRIMATI ILA BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) when the next meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee of the nationalised banks for the Eastern Region is scheduled to be held;

(b) what will be the agenda for that meeting;

(c) whether the issue of loan melas will be included in the agenda; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?